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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/738,479 Confirmation No.: 8207
Applicant(s): Almi *et al.*
Filed: December 17, 2003
Art Unit: 3749
Examiner: Rinehart, Kenneth
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BLOWING DRYING GAS IN A PAPER MACHINE

Docket No.: 033047/272486
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RULE 132 DECLARATION
of JARKKO VEIJOLA

Sir:

I, Jarkko Veijola, do hereby declare and say as follows:

1. I am a named co-inventor of International Application No. PCT/FI99/00282 (International Publication No. WO 99/51813), having an international filing date of April 6, 1999, and entitled "Method and Apparatus for Controlling the Temperature in the Drying Section of a Paper Machine or Similar."
2. I am also a named co-inventor of currently-pending United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/738,479, filed December 17, 2003, entitled "Method and Apparatus for Blowing Drying Gas in a Paper Machine."
3. International Application No. PCT/FI99/00282 (International Publication No. WO 99/51813) is directed to an impingement drier for a paper machine, as substantially shown in Attachments 1-3 appended to this declaration.
4. Attachment 1 illustrates an impingement drier for a paper machine as disclosed by WO 99/51813 showing hood blocks A, B, C each extending in the machine direction, with the hood blocks A, B, C being serially disposed in the cross machine direction (see, e.g., WO 99/51813, Page 7, lines 28-29 and Page 8, line 6). Attachment 1 also shows nozzle boxes D, E, F each extending in the cross machine direction, with the nozzle boxes D, E, F being serially

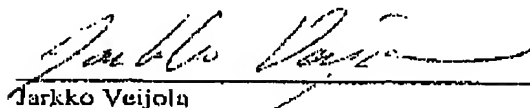
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disposed in the machine direction (see, e.g., WO 99/51813, Page 8, line 5), and having a discharge air channel or "slit" G disposed between adjacent nozzle boxes D, E, F (see, e.g., WO 99/51813, Page 8, lines 5-6) to collect the drying air blown against the web by the nozzle boxes. Accordingly, the nozzle boxes D, E, F, and the discharge air channel or "slit" are disposed and arranged to extend perpendicularly to the machine direction (i.e., perpendicularly to the direction in which the rotating impingement drier cylinder H).

5. Attachment 2 is an enlarged portion of the impingement drier as disclosed by WO 99/51813 and shown in Attachment 1, showing a hood block A extending in the machine direction (see, e.g., WO 99/51813, Page 7, lines 28-29 and Page 8, line 6) and nozzle boxes D, E, F each extending in the cross machine direction, with the nozzle boxes D, E, F being serially disposed in the machine direction (see, e.g., WO 99/51813, Page 8, line 5). A discharge air channel or "slit" G is disposed between adjacent nozzle boxes D, E, F (see, e.g., WO 99/51813, Page 8, lines 5-6) to collect the drying air blown against the web by the nozzle boxes. Accordingly, Attachment 2 further illustrates the nozzle boxes D, E, F, and the discharge air channel or "slit" being disposed and arranged to extend perpendicularly to the machine direction (i.e., perpendicularly to the direction in which the rotating impingement drier cylinder H).

6. Attachment 3 is an enlarged portion of an alternate embodiment of an impingement drier for a paper machine as disclosed by WO 99/51813, showing a nozzle box I extending in both the machine direction and the cross machine direction, wherein discharge air pipes J are disposed about the nozzle box I (see, e.g., WO 99/51813, Page 8, lines 4-5) to collect the drying air blown against the web by the nozzle box.

7. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


Jarkko Veijola

20.01.2005
Date